

TOWN OF WENHAM
BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting of Friday, March 20, 2020
Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30 A, § 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Wenham Board of Health (BOH) was held on **March 20, 2020 at 5:00 PM** in the Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street.

With a quorum present, Dr. Ting called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm

Wenham Board Members Present: Dr. Andrew Ting; Gerald Donnellan

Board members not present: Regina Baker

Also Present: Greg Bernard, Health Agent; Maribeth Ting, Public Health Nurse; Anthony Ansaldi, Town Administrator; and Jackie Bresnahan, Director of Administrative Services and Recording Secretary

1. The Chair Identified that this is a virtual meeting, that the meeting is being recorded, and had all attendees identify themselves.
2. COVID-19 (Coronavirus Discussion) – there was an update by the Chair and the Public Health Nurse (PHN) on COVID-19.
 - a. Affirm the Town of Wenham Emergency Declaration made by the BOS on 3/17/2020: The Board reviewed the emergency declaration made by the Board of Selectmen and the reasons for the declaration which is to get access to additional support and funds for the COVID-19 response. The Board voted unanimously by roll call to affirm the language voted by the BOS for the Emergency declaration.
 - b. The BOH voted unanimously by roll call vote to authorize the Public Health Nurse, on the Board's behalf, to request 3D Emergency Preparedness funds to assist with Public Health Nurse and Board of Health response.
 - c. The BOH discussed a recommendation or order that all Town board and committee meetings be held virtually (phone, video conference, etc.) and in compliance with the Governor's modifications to Open Meeting Law. There was much discussion between the Board members on this items about the necessity of social distancing and specifically an email from School Committee member Michelle Bailey regarding the Superintendent interviews being held on Saturday 3/21/2020, Monday 3/23/2020, and Tuesday 3/24/2020 in person. The BOH discussion included input from the PHN, Town Administrator, Health Agent, and Director of Administrative Services on the Governor's modifications to Open Meeting Law, the BOs recommendation on non-essential meetings being postponed and essential meetings being coordinator by the TA office, and the town buildings being closed to public to help reduce exposure to COVID-19 and to flatten the curve. The Board of Health discussion was at an impasse and the Board took no action on the item.
 - d. Discuss current status and BOH response to date: The PHN identified updates to the BOH website and the MASS 211 phone number as good places for residents to get up to date information. She also noted the robocalls that will be going out to the public tonight (3/20/2020) and the other communications strategies being worked on to communicate with residents who don't utilize smart devices or computers.
3. Updates from Staff, if any
 - a. Greg Bernard noted that the septic season was busy and was starting to slow down. Information is being provided to Title V inspectors and installers who need it to continue ensuring the quality of septic systems in Wenham.
 - b. Maribeth Ting did not have any updates beyond COVID-19

- c. Jackie Bresnahan noted that she submitted a request for funding to DPH and funds should be coming soon. She noted that more rounds of funding are coming up.
4. New business, not reasonably anticipated by the Chair for discussion only.
 - a. Dr. Ting noted the Governor's closure of the state park playgrounds and that the WBOH and Hamilton BOH Chairs, Hamilton Town Manager, Wenham Town Administrator, and Recreation Director closed playgrounds in Hamilton and Wenham.
5. Schedule next meeting, if necessary
 - a. The next public health/safety meeting for Hamilton and Wenham will occur next week and the Board of Health determined they would meet the week after, unless something came up.

The Board adjourned unanimously at 6:10 PM by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Bresnahan